

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 IO-13

TRSE-00 SY-05 /084 W

----- 073019

R 101549Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0099

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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NOFORN

LAGOS FOR REGIONAL FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, XX

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISTANBUL AND

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 21490

1. AIRPORT SECURITY AT AIRPORT PORT-BOUET (ABIDJAN)
IS NOW VIRTUALLY NIL. THERE IS AN ARTIFICIAL APPEARANCE
OF SECURITY CREATED BY A GOOD MANY ARMED POLICEMENT,
CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, AND GENDARMERIE, BUT THESE HAVE
HAD ONLY BASIC TRAINING IN THE USE OF WEAPONS AND,
IN EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT, COULD NOT COPE WITH SUDDEN
TERRORIST ATTACK. A FRENCH BASE IS LOCATED ONLY
TWO KILOMETERS FROM AIRPORT; THE IVORIAN AIR
FORCE IS LOCATED 500 METERS FROM TERMINAL; AND
A GENDARMERIE BASE IS LOCATED ONLY 200 METERS
FROM TERMINAL, BUT NONE OF THESE COULD REACT
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QUICKLY ENOUGH TO PREVENT SUDDEN TERRORIST

ATTACK, THOUGH THEY COULD LATER CONTAIN IT AND PERHAPS ACT TO PREVENT A HIJACKED AIRCRAFT FROM TAKING OFF.

2. DESPITE BARRIERS, ANY UNSCREENED PERSON WHO KNOWS AIRPORT CAN EASILY MINGLE WITH SCREENED PERSONS IN TRANSIT LOUNGE. IN FACT, THERE IS AN OPEN BALCONY OVERLOOKING TRANSIT LOUNGE FROM WHICH ONE MAN WITH A MACHINE GUN COULD CREATE MAYHEM IN MATTER OF SECONDS. HE WOULD HAVE AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENT ESCAPE ROUTES FROM BALCONY.

THERE IS NO FENCE AROUND AIRPORT. THERE IS ONLY SUPERFICIAL CONTROL OF ACCESS TO TARMAC. A TRAINED COMMANDO GROUP COULD EASILY ATTACK ENTIRE AIRPORT, HIJACK A PLANE, OR COMMIT TERRORIST ACT IN AIRPORT, ESCAPE TO THE COAST BY ROAD, AND BE TAKEN ABOARD A BOAT AT ANY POINT ALONG THE COAST EAST OF THE AIRPORT. THE FORMER FRENCH DEFENSE ATTACHE REMARKED TO OUR DAO THAT HE COULD TAKE THE AIRPORT WITHOUT RESISTANCE BETWEEN TWO AND FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND THEREAFTER HOLD IT FOR A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME WITH LESS THAN A HUNDRED MEN.

3. E/C CHIEF, DURING CALL ON VASSIRIKI SAVANE, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, ON SEPTEMBER 8, BROACHED SUBJECT OF AIRPORT SECURITY AND LEARNED THAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT THE SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE. TWO GOIC SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING TRAINING AT FAA OKLAHOMA CENTER. BULLET-PROOF GLASS IS BEING INSTALLED THROUGHOUT AIRPORT. A QTE STERILE AREA END QTE IS BEING CREATED WHICH WILL TOTALLY ISOLATE TRANSIT PASSENGERS AND END THE DANGER FROM THE BALCONY. A METAL DETECTOR HAS BEEN ORDERED. CIVIL AVIATION HAS ASKED THAT POLICEMEN LIVE IN QUARTERS AT THE TERMINAL TO MAINTAIN AROUND THE CLOCK SURVEILLANCE. EMBOFFS RECENTLY AT AIRPORT TO SAY GOODBYE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLLEAGUES DEPARTING POST FOR ONWARD ASSIGNMENTS NOTED THAT ALL HAND LUGGAGE WAS THOROUGHLY SEARCHED.

4. COMMENT: MANY OF IMPROVEMENTS IN AIRPORT SECURITY OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH THREE ARE IN BLUEPRINT ONLY AT THIS POINT, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE OBSERVED GLASS BEING INSTALLED. EMBASSY WILL AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE HAVE TO REASSESS THE SECURITY OF

POR-T-BOUET. END COMMENT.

COOKE

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